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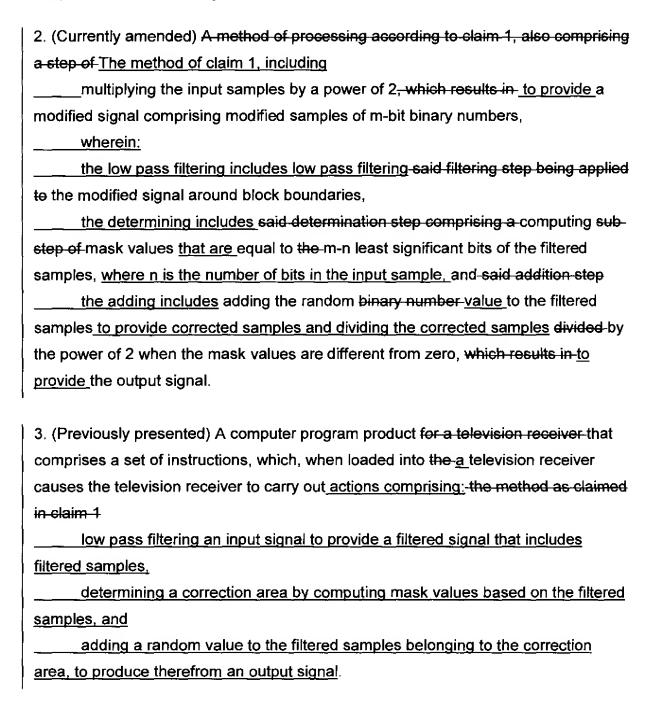Reply to Office action of 27 July 2006

Amendments to the Claims:

A listing of the entire set of pending claims (including amendments to the claims, if any) is submitted herewith per 37 CFR 1.121. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method ~~of processing an input signal, said input signal comprising blocks and said blocks comprising n-bit binary input samples, with n being an integer, said method of processing~~ comprising ~~at least~~:

[[-]] ~~a~~ low pass filtering ~~step applied to the~~ an input signal, ~~which results in~~ to provide a filtered signal ~~comprising~~ that includes filtered samples,

[[-]] ~~a determination step for~~ determining a correction area ~~around block boundaries, said determination step including~~ by computing mask values ~~associated with the input samples using~~ based on the filtered samples, ~~said correction area corresponding to an area where the mask values are different from zero,~~ and

[[-]] ~~a correction step for~~ adding a random value ~~binary number comprising at least one bit~~ to the filtered samples belonging to the correction area, ~~which results in~~ to produce therefrom an output signal.

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2. (Currently amended) ~~A method of processing according to claim 1, also comprising a step of~~ The method of claim 1, including

_____multiplying the input samples by a power of 2, ~~which results in~~ to provide a modified signal comprising modified samples of m-bit binary numbers,

_____wherein:

_____the low pass filtering includes low pass filtering ~~said filtering step being applied to~~ the modified signal around block boundaries,

_____the determining includes ~~said determination step comprising a~~ computing ~~sub-step of~~ mask values that are equal to ~~the~~ m-n least significant bits of the filtered samples, where n is the number of bits in the input sample, and ~~said addition step~~

_____the adding includes adding the random ~~binary number~~ value to the filtered samples to provide corrected samples and dividing the corrected samples ~~divided~~ by the power of 2 when the mask values are different from zero, ~~which results in~~ to provide the output signal.

3. (Previously presented) A computer program product ~~for a television receiver~~ that comprises a set of instructions, which, when loaded into ~~the~~ a television receiver causes the television receiver to carry out actions comprising: ~~the method as claimed in claim 1~~

_____low pass filtering an input signal to provide a filtered signal that includes filtered samples,

_____determining a correction area by computing mask values based on the filtered samples, and

_____adding a random value to the filtered samples belonging to the correction area, to produce therefrom an output signal.

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4. (Previously presented) A computer program product ~~for a set top box~~ that comprises a set of instructions, which, when loaded into ~~the~~ a set-top-box causes the set-top-box to carry out actions comprising: ~~the method as claimed in claim 1~~

low pass filtering an input signal to provide a filtered signal that includes filtered samples,

determining a correction area by computing mask values based on the filtered samples, and

adding a random value to the filtered samples belonging to the correction area, to produce therefrom an output signal.

5. (New) A method comprising:

receiving an input signal,

up-scaling the input signal to provide a scaled input signal,

low-pass filtering the scaled input signal to provide a filtered signal,

defining correction regions in the filtered signal,

combining a random value to the filtered signal within the correction regions to provide a corrected signal, and

down-scaling the corrected signal to provide an output signal.

6. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein

the input signal includes blocks of data, and

the correction regions correspond to edges of the blocks of data.

7. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein

the blocks of data correspond to an area of an image, and

the edges correspond to a perimeter of the area.

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8. (New) The method of claim 7, wherein

the edges correspond to a defined band about the perimeter of the area.

9. (New) The method of claim 6, wherein

the correction regions depend on values of the filtered signal.

10. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein

the correction regions depend on values of the filtered signal.

11. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein

a scale of the output signal corresponds to a scale of the input signal.

12. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein

the up-scaling includes upscaling by a power of two.

13. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein

the correction regions correspond to values of the filtered signal that are not multiples of the power of two.

14. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein

the up-scaling includes upscaling by a power of two.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein

the correction regions correspond to values of the filtered signal that are not multiples of the power of two.

16. (New) The method of claim 5, wherein

the input signal corresponds to a video signal.

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17. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein

the video signal corresponds to a decoded MPEG-encoded signal.

18. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein

the video signal includes area blocks of the decoded MPEG-encoded signal,

and

the correction regions correspond to perimeter regions of the blocks of data.

19. (New) The method of claim 17, wherein

the up-scaling includes upscaling by a power of four.

20. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein

the random value is limited to values of zero and one.